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ITALY.

Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Emigrants recommended for rejection—Smallpox in Italy—Campaign against malaria in Italy.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McLaughlin reports, October 8, as follows: Week ended October 6, 1906. Vessels inspected at Naples and Palermo as follows:

NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and past.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and past.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Oct. 2	Cittá di Napoli	New York	886	120	950
3	Moltke	do	916	260	1,150
4	Sicania	do			
4	Italia	do	1,036	80	1,350
5	Königin Luise	do	1,332	210	1,450
6	Liguria	do	980	180	1,100

PALERMO.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and past.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and past.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Oct. 5	Italia	New York	420	600	200

Rejections recommended.

NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Trachoma.	Favus.	Suspected trachoma.	Suspected favus.	Other causes.	Total.
Oct. 2	Cittá di Napoli	30	3	29	1	12	75
3	Moltke	36	5	42		6	89
4	Sicania						
4	Italia	30	1	18	1	5	55
5	Königin Luise	27	7	29	3	5	71
6	Liguria	26	1	13		8	48
	Total	149	17	131	5	36	338

PALERMO.

Date.	Name of ship.	Trachoma.	Favus.	Suspected trachoma.	Suspected favus.	Other causes.	Total.
Oct. 5	Italia	31		44			75

Smallpox.—Week ended October 11, 1906. Following reports were officially registered: Musocco (Milan), 1 case; Castelguidone, 4 cases; Casalanguida (Chieti), 4 cases; S. Giorgio la Molara (Benevento), 1 case.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST MALARIA IN ITALY.

In response to Bureau letter dated September 14, 1906, Passed Asst. Surg. A. J. McLaughlin reports as follows concerning the preventive measures practised in Italy against malaria:

The existence of malaria in Italy and the efforts to recognize and combat the disease date back to very ancient times. Marcus Varro, in the Re Rustica (book 1, ch. 12), advises never to build houses in a malarial location, because in summer minute little animals grow which can not possibly be seen by the naked eye, and which, entering from the air into the human body, produce terrible diseases. Here it has been firmly believed that malaria bears a relation to the hydrographic condition of the soil, because where water became stagnant or could not flow away because of obstructions or geologic peculiarities, then malaria was always to be found.

The campaign directed against malaria dates back several centuries. As far as Naples is concerned, it is sufficient to remember the eminent Lettieri and his work in the time of the Spanish viceroy Don Pedro de Toledo. Besides constructing the sewers of Naples and reopening the aqueduct of Claudius, which in ancient times carried the Serino water to the famous reservoir at Cumæ to supply the Roman fleet, Lettieri planned to reclaim the immense plain that extends from the foot of the Apennines to the Gulf of Gaeta between Miseno and the mouth of the Volturno. With this end in view, he excavated the magnificent collector of water known as the Regii Lagni.

Toward the beginning of the last century there was created in Naples a special bureau whose duty it was to study and execute works for reclaiming the malarial marshes of the kingdom of Naples. These measures for the redemption of malarial soil were soon followed in all the other parts of Italy, in many instances being enforced by special laws. Unity was given to these efforts, and the value of concerted action secured by the law of March 22, 1900. According to this law all works of redemption are divided into two categories. The first contains works of special advantage to hygiene or agriculture, or to both. The second category contains other measures which do not present these special characteristics. The measures in the first category are carried out directly by the Government, which may, however, yield the right to the province, the commune, or societies of landholders. The measures in the second category are executed and maintained by the proprietors or by a society of proprietors.

All works for redeeming land are considered works of public utility, and as such enjoy certain special privileges and prerogatives. The work for the redemption of marsh land resolves itself into an effort to control the course of the water. To prevent the overflowing of the rivers embankments are constructed and trees are planted on the hillsides surrounding the plain.

To raise the level of the soil two methods are used: First, by dumping soil brought from other localities; second, by a deposit obtained by subsidence of the soil contained in the muddy rivers in flood. The water is allowed to overflow certain low sections by opening gates in the embankment. This is always done at the time when the river contains the greatest quantity of suspended matter. Under the law a section of land must submit to these measures for reclaiming it until it is in a condition for cultivation.

With the progress of the knowledge of the disease, especially of its etiology, the necessity for further legislation arose. The efficacy of quinine being recognized, it was evident that many lives were sacrificed because of the high price of the drug and the difficulty of obtaining it in a pure state. The law of December 23, 1900, was past by which the right to manufacture or sell preparations of quinine was restricted to the Government. The law of November 2, 1901, was enacted to further combine the various measures for stamping out the disease.

This law provides for—

First. The determination of "malarial zones."

Second. The administration of quinine to all laborers, workmen, or employees working in a malarial zone.

Third. The mechanical protection against mosquitoes believed capable of transmitting the infection.

The regulations based upon this law were approved March 30, 1902, and prescribe how the law must be applied in practise. A malarial zone is a zone of territory in which have occurred several cases of malaria contracted on the spot, simultaneously or at brief intervals, coincident with the presence of mosquitoes believed capable of transmitting the disease, and the presence of stagnant water. When a district is declared to be a malarial zone the following duties become obligatory: The proprietors and employers of labor are required to furnish quinine to the laborers or employees as well as to their families gratis. The doctors are obliged to re ort all cases of malaria and must also report to the police the failure of proprietors or employers of labor to furnish quinine gratis to the employed. The doctors are also obliged to report deaths from pernicious malaria and to send the certificate of such death to the police. In cases of doubt a post-mortem examination must be made.

An article of the law of November 2, 1901, enacted that mechanical defense against aerial insects be employed. The regulations for putting into practise the mechanical defenses were promulgated by a decree of the minister of the interior June 12, 1902, and contained the following directions: All habitations and buildings used by people in a zone of territory declared malarial must be protected against the entrance of aerial insects. Such protection shall consist of the application of a netting of wire, linen, cotton, or other textile, over every aperture communicating with the exterior (doors, windows, ventilators, chimneys, etc.). This netting must not be coarser than 25 meshes to each square centimeter of surface. The netting must be applied solidly and be immovable. The entrance shall be protected by a double door so arranged that the second door can not be opened except when the first door is closed. The doors must be fitted with a contrivance for automatic closure. Special care must be taken with the doors of sleeping apartments. To protect the apertures of chimneys the top of the chimney must be covered with a cap of iron wire, and the opening from the room into the chimney must also be covered with a netting of iron wire. Continued vigilance is enjoined to detect the slightest imperfection in the netting or other arrangements for protection.

In general these regulations are enforced from June 1 to December each year, except when modified by special order to suit unusual conditions in certain places. These protective measures are obligatory also in the barracks of the custom-house guards, in the houses of persons employed upon Government or provincial roads, upon other public works, and upon the railroads.

Another law became effective February 25, 1904, which rendered more general the use of quinine. By this law quinine is distributed free to all the poor for curative purposes, and by another law, May 19, 1904, this was extended so that the drug was to be furnished free for prophylactic purposes as well. The price of quinine is now as follows: Bisulfate of quinine costs 8 centimes to the public and 6 centimes to communes and charitable societies for each gram. Hydrochlorate of quinine costs 10 centimes to the public and 8 centimes to communes for each gram. For hypodermic injections 12 centimes are charged for each phial containing 1 gram of the solution.

[An Italian centime equals about one-fifth of 1 cent.]

To recapitulate, the war against malaria is conducted along these lines: The reclamation of marsh land; protection against mosquitoes; obligatory administration of quinine; and Government control of quinine, insuring a pure drug at the lowest possible cost.

All the forces of the Government are coordinated in this work. The Italian army medical department enforces similar measures under a special code of regulations. Valuable support and collaboration are received from certain private associations, notably the Society for the Study of Malaria and the Red Cross. Every year special commissions are established by the Society for the Study of Malaria in each malarial zone to study the epidemiology, prophylaxis, and cure of malaria. These stations are maintained thruout the malarial season. The researches are conducted with precision and vigor. In all stations there are able scientists, clinicians, microscopists, and entomologists. Besides these researches a very valuable campaign of education is carried on, diffusing among the people knowledge of the proper use of quinine, both as a prophylactic and as a curative measure.

The Italian Red Cross Society also gives its very valuable help in the struggle against malaria, especially in the Roman Campania. Every means is employed to lessen the menace to life among the peasants of the Campania and to conquer not only the disease itself, but the indifference and ignorance of the sufferers. The good effect of all these measures may be judged from the statistics, which show a steady diminution both in the number of cases and the death rate since the active war upon malaria was begun.

The yearly statistics of the Italian Red Cross in the Roman Campania are as follows:

Year.	Cases of malaria treated.	Cases treated in Roman hospitals.	Persons receiving prophylactic treatment.	Year.	Cases of malaria treated.	Cases treated in Roman hospitals.	Persons receiving prophylactic treatment.
1900	1,716	6,186	....	1903	320	2,461	17,506
1901	1,263	4,752	1,176	1904	162	2,961	29,603
1902	764	2,750	3,853				

The deaths from malaria in each of the departments of the Kingdom of Italy during the years 1900 to 1903, inclusive, in proportion to every 10,000 of the population, are shown in the following table:

Department.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Department.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Piemonte	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	Abruzzi and Molise	4.9	4.0	3.6	4.4
Liguria	.1	.1	.1	.1	Campania	3.8	2.6	1.6	1.3
Lombardia	.5	.5	.4	.2	Puglie	14.7	15.1	10.4	9.4
Veneto	1.0	.8	.5	.4	Basilicata	23.3	17.7	14.1	11.5
Emilia	.9	.8	.6	.5	Calabrie	12.7	11.0	7.7	6.0
Toscana	1.1	1.1	.6	.3	Sicilia	11.6	10.1	7.6	6.3
Marche	.3	.2	.1	.1	Sardegna	27.9	20.1	15.4	13.0
Umbria	.7	.4	.2	.2	In the whole Kingdom.	4.9	4.2	3.0	2.6
Lazio	6.0	3.9	2.6	2.3					

Sale of State quinine; mortality from malaria in Italy.

Year.	State quinine sold.	Deaths from malaria.	Net profits from sale of State quinine.	Year.	State quinine sold.	Deaths from malaria.	Net profits from sale of State quinine.
	Kilos.		*Lire.*		*Kilos.*		*Lire.*
1890	....	15,147	....	1898	....	11,378	....
1891	....	18,190	....	1899	....	10,811	....
1892	....	15,531	....	1900	....	15,865	....
1893	....	15,301	....	1901	....	13,358	....
1894	....	15,296	....	1902-3	2,242	9,908	34,000
1895	....	16,464	....	1903-4	7,234	8,513	180,000
1896	....	14,017	....	1904-5	14,071	8,501	171,000
1897	....	11,947	....	1905-6	18,000	7,753	230,000

The Italian lire equals about 20 cents.

Altho decreasing rapidly under these efforts, malaria continues to be the greatest affliction with which the Italian sanitary authorities have to deal, except perhaps that other scourge of southern Italy and Sicily, trachoma, in which Americans have a more than common interest because of the enormous Italian emigration. These energetic measures are being carried out with persistence and assiduity. They are bound to have, finally, the result hoped for—the extinction of malaria as an epidemic disease in Italy.

JAPAN.

Report from Kobe—Emigrants recommended for rejection.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Kilpatrick reports, September 1, as follows:

Month of August, 1906.

Steamship *Korea*, for Honolulu, 229; steamship *America Maru*, for San Francisco, 4, for Honolulu, 281; steamship *Siberia*, for San Francisco, 4, for Honolulu, 253; steamship *Kasato Maru*, for Honolulu, 327; steamship *China*, for San Francisco, 2, for Honolulu, 82.

MEXICO.

Reports from Progreso—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Yellow fever in Merida.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Harrison reports, October 8 and 19, as follows:

Week ended October 6, 1906. Yellow fever continued in Merida, but with fewer new cases per day. In Progreso no quarantinable disease occurred. Several "suspect" cases were sent to the lazaretto. During the week 6 steamships were dispatched, with passengers 35 and crews 245. One of the steamships was fumigated.

Two weeks ended October 20, 1906. Yellow fever continued in Merida, either originating there or imported from the adjacent country. In Progreso no quarantinable disease was reported, but several febrile cases were committed to the lazaretto for observation. During the 2 weeks 11 steamships were dispatched, carrying 352 persons in crews and 37 as passengers from this port. Of these vessels 5 were fumigated.